

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 10:30 a.m. for Morning Hour
and 12:00 Noon for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 2:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 848—Extending the Deadline for the AuSable Hydroelectric Project

H.R. 1184—Extending the Deadline for the Bear Creek Hydroelectric Project

**H.R. 1217—Extending the Deadline for a Hydroelectric Project in Washington
State**

**H.Con.Res. 60—Relating to the 30th Anniversary of the Reunification of the
City of Jerusalem**

H.R. 1757—Foreign Relations Authorization Act



Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following four bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 848 extends the Federal Power Act deadline, for up to six years, to begin construction of the AuSable hydroelectric project, an 800-kilowatt project located in New York. The deadline was February 5, 1997, but was not met because a power purchase agreement has not been made. CBO estimates that enactment will result in no significant cost to the federal government. The bill was introduced by Mr. McHugh and ordered reported by the Commerce Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 1184 extends the Federal Power Act deadline, for up to six years, to begin construction of the Bear Creek hydroelectric project, a 4-megawatt project located in Washington. The project will not meet the December 9, 1997, deadline due to lack of a power purchase agreement. CBO estimates

that enactment will result in no significant cost to the federal government. The bill was introduced by Mr. Metcalf and ordered reported by the Commerce Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 1217 extends the Federal Power Act deadline to complete construction of the Young's Creek hydroelectric project, a 7.5-megawatt project located in Washington. Although construction has begun, the May 4, 1998, completion deadline will not be met due to lack of funding. CBO estimates that enactment will result in no significant cost to the federal government. The bill was introduced by Mr. Metcalf and ordered reported by the Commerce Committee by voice vote.

H.Con.Res. 60 expresses the sense of Congress (1) congratulating the residents of Jerusalem and the people of Israel on the 30th anniversary of the reunification of the city, (2) calling upon the president and the Secretary of State to affirm publicly as a matter of U.S. policy that Jerusalem must remain the undivided capital of Israel, and (3) urging U.S. officials to refrain from any actions that contradict this policy. The bill was Introduced by Mr. Schumer et al. on April 10, 1997, and was not reported by a committee.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #16, June 6, 1997.



H.R. 1757—Foreign Relations Authorization Act

Floor Situation: The House will continue consideration of H.R. 1757 after it completes consideration of the scheduled suspensions. Last Thursday, the House began considering amendments to Title XVIII under an open rule. The rule allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. The rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions. The House also agreed to a unanimous consent request to limit debate on any new amendments (amendments filed after Thursday) to 10 minutes, equally divided between a proponent and an opponent.

Summary: H.R. 1757 authorizes approximately \$6.12 billion in each of FY 1998 and FY 1999 for the State Department and related agencies. The FY 1998 level, which is equal to the amount agreed to by Congress and the president in the balanced budget plan, is about \$228 million less than the administration's request but \$225 million more than the level appropriated in FY 1997. The bill also contains provisions to eliminate the U.S. Information Agency, the International Development Cooperation Agency (IDCA), and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and consolidate their functions into the State Department, along with certain functions of the Agency for International Development. The bill was introduced by Mr. Gilman and Mr. Smith and was not considered by a committee.

Views (on the overall bill):

Republican Leadership: Supports

Chairman Gilman: Supports

Clinton Administration: No Position Available

Amendments: The House will vote on the following four amendments which were considered last Wednesday and Thursday but not voted on:

- * an amendment by **Mr. Stearns** to encourage the U.N. to create a planning commission to study the issue of changing the structure of its organization, specifically looking into establishing a revolving headquarters for the U.N. and transforming into a part-time body. *Staff Contact: Peter Krug, x5-5744*
- * an amendment by **Mr. Scarborough** to require the administration to apply to Sudan the financial transaction restrictions for countries that support terrorism contained in the 1996 Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (*P.L. 104-132*). The amendment also expresses the sense of Congress that the persecution of religious minorities and continued slave trading in Sudan and its support for terrorism abroad and in the U.S. is unacceptable. *Staff Contact: James Griffin, x5-4136*
- * an amendment by **Mr. Engel and Mr. Saxton** to express the sense of Congress that the U.S. should consider applying to Syria identical sanctions to those currently enforced against Iran and Libya if the government of Syria does not alter its dangerous and destabilizing policies. *Staff Contact: Jason Steinbaum (Engel), x5-2464; Rick Fein (Saxton), x5-4765*
- * an amendment by **Mr. Nethercutt** to express the sense of Congress that the militant organization Al-Faran should (1) release Donald Hutchings and four western Europeans from captivity, (2) cease and desist from all acts of hostage-taking and other violent acts within the state of Jammu and Kashmir in India. It also states that the State Department Rewards Program should be used to the greatest extent possible to solicit new information pertaining to hostages and that the U.S., the United Kingdom, Germany, Norway, India, and Pakistan should share and investigate all information relating to these hostages as quickly as possible. Al-Faran, a militant organization that seeks to merge Kashmir with Pakistan, has waged a war against the government of India. During the week of July 2, 1995, Al-Faran abducted and has threatened to kill Donald Hutchings of the state of Washington and four other western Europeans unless the government of India agrees to release suspected guerrillas from its jails. *Staff Contacts: Greg Kroger and Rob Neal, x5-2006*

At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following other amendments to H.R. 1757:

Mr. Capps may offer an amendment to direct the USIA, wherever practical, to consider individuals who are active in the preservation of Tibet's culture, language, and religion when granting scholarships under the Educational and Cultural Exchange program. Currently, the bill requires USIA to establish a program with the people of Tibet that includes at least 30 scholarships for Tibetan students and professionals residing outside Tibet. *Staff Contact: Lisa Moreno, x5-3601*

Mr. Gilman may offer an amendment to modify the bill's provisions to consolidate three foreign affairs agencies into the State Department. Additional information was unavailable at press time. *Contact: x5-5021*

Mr. Kennedy (RI) may offer an amendment to express the sense of Congress that the government of Indonesia should not receive military assistance or arms transfers unless the president certifies that it (1) accredits independent domestic election monitoring organizations; (2) protects nongovernmental organizations; (3) investigates the July 1996 attack on the headquarters of the Democratic Party of Indonesia; (4) takes further steps to resolve the conflict in East Timor, including the release of political prisoners; and (5) improves labor rights. The amendment defines “military assistance” as small arms, crowd control equipment, armored personnel carriers, and other items that are commonly used by the Indonesia government to commit human rights violations. Under the amendment, Indonesia would continue to be eligible for “expanded” International Military Education and Training (IMET) assistance. *Staff Contact: Kimber Colton, x5-4911*

Ms. McKinney may offer an amendment to require the president to submit to Congress a list of countries that he wishes to make eligible for U.S. arms exports and specify which countries are undemocratic or are gross abusers of human rights. The amendment, however, provides an automatic exemption for emergencies in which the president determines such assistance would be in U.S. national security interests (unless Congress enacts legislation disapproving the requested exemption). *Staff Contact: Jayme Roth, x5-1605*

Mr. Miller (CA) may offer an amendment expressing the sense of Congress that the U.S. government should not prohibit the importation, sale, or distribution of Cuban cigars in the United States. *Staff Contact: Ilir Zherka, x5-2095*

Mr. Ney may offer an amendment to prohibit foreign assistance to any country that assists the Libyan government in circumventing United Nations sanctions. On May 8th, Muammar Qaddafi defied the UN ban and flew to two neighboring countries. This amendment intends to deter other countries from helping Libya and keep the pressure on that country to stop using terrorism as a foreign policy tool and turn over the two suspects in the Pan Am Flight 103 bombing. *Staff Contact: Dave Heil, x5-6265*

Messrs. Paxon, Engel, Saxton, and Deutsch may offer an amendment to express the sense of Congress condemning the murder of Palestinians who sell land to Jews and demanding that the Palestinian Authority condemn this practice. Proponents of the amendment are concerned about the apparent endorsement of this policy by Mr. Yassir Arafat and the Palestinian Justice Minister, which has resulted in the death of at least three Palestinians. *Staff Contact: Paul Scolese (Paxon), x5-5265; Jason Steinbaum (Engel), x5-2464*

Mr. Sanford may offer an amendment (#7) to reduce the authorized spending levels in the bill for FY 1998 and FY 1999 to the amount appropriated in FY 1997 (a reduction of approximately \$225 million). *Staff Contact: Holly Swanson, x5-3176*

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #15, Pt. II, June 3, 1997.

